

"After too long, we are finally seeing political Washington D.C. accede to what Americans have long known: that President Bush's Iraq war is the wrong war based on a failed policy. Honest, realistic assessments like incoming Defense Secretary Bob Gates yesterday admitting that 'we're not winning' in Iraq, and the bipartisan Iraq Study Group today highlighting that the situation is 'grave and deteriorating' have been missing and ignored in Republican-run Washington for the last three years.

"This war has caused too many Americans and Iraqis to lose their lives, their families and their homes. We have already been fighting in Iraq longer than we fought in World War II. As Democrats come to power in the new year, I will continue to work toward ending the war as quickly as possible.

"In addition, it's important to note that the Iraq Study Group's recommendations recognize the importance of improving our government's stabilization and reconstruction abilities. While our military is the best in the world, it's obvious that when the immediate fighting ends, our ability to carry out a complex stabilization and reconstruction operation that fosters a functioning and peaceful state is severely lacking. I have already introduced legislation, HR 6104, to improve stabilization and reconstruction education, training and operations and am proud to represent and work with the premier military school on these topics, the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California."